

# The CMM Perspective

## **The CMM Philosophy**

Caddo Middle Magnet, building upon a foundation of excellence, believes in a strong partnership between teachers, staff, parents, and students that provides a challenging academic experience focused on meeting the needs of a developing middle school student. In keeping with this philosophy, our school's success focuses on:

- Academic excellence as our chief priority
- A shared vision that drives our decision making
- Teachers who are motivated and innovative
- Students who are engaged in active, purposeful learning
- Teachers using multiple learning and teaching approaches
- Staff development that reflects best practices
- A school environment that is inviting, safe, and supportive for all
- Family involvement in education
- Support for student growth in all areas of maturation

## **Our Mission Statement**

The faculty, students, parents and community of Caddo Middle Magnet strive to provide a diverse curriculum emphasizing higher-order thinking skills. Making respect a priority, we will work as a team to meet the unique needs of middle school students.

## **The Middle School Perspective**

Middle school learners live in a constant state of growth. The middle school child spends much energy on physical growth. Adolescents mature into abstract thinkers and proficient problem solvers. On an emotional level, students search to find their voice and their role in a much wider world than that of the elementary school. Middle school students discover new interests and develop new ideas about themselves and the world around them. They forge new friendships while maintaining the relationships established during their primary years. They embrace the excitement, challenge, and opportunity of this unique time in their lives.

Caddo Middle Magnet (CMM) meets the varied needs of this dynamic age group. Our Program of Study shares course offerings and program components designed to nurture, support, and challenge young learners. CMM designs courses to provide young adolescents with the freedom to question, to experiment in a safe and supportive environment, and to experience success and challenge, and to gain knowledge. CMM not only requires mastery of basic skills, but also provides both depth and acceleration in numerous areas of the curriculum, providing students the opportunity for advanced courses and enriched learning. Students at Caddo Middle Magnet achieve at their highest potential and continue to grow as lifelong learners.

Caddo Middle Magnet implements various levels of the teaming concept in sixth grade. The teaming structure consists of teachers of the four core subjects who work with a common group of students. All teams provide a safe and supportive environment for each child to learn and grow.

# Core Subjects

## *English Language Arts*

### Introduction

The English Language Arts (ELA) curriculum equips students with the tools necessary to communicate effectively. To accomplish this goal, the program offers daily practice to develop skills and strategies in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. The reading component of the curriculum encompasses a variety of genres, including fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and drama. Using the writing process, students practice with the Jane Schaffer method and the constructed response format. Daily lessons include practice in vocabulary, usage, grammar, and mechanics. Listening and speaking skills develop through a project-driven curriculum using technology. The National Council of Teachers of English defines English education as "...the development of literacy, the use of language to construct personal and public worlds and to achieve full participation in society."

### Enriched Classes

- **Sixth Grade English** – This course is taught in a two-hour block schedule. Students will master reading comprehension skills and writing skills including constructed responses and essays. Students learn organizational skills to help stay on track in all classes.
- **Seventh Grade English** – This course is teamed with American history to provide a humanities-styled learning experience correlating literature and activities to the time period being studied in American history. One of these activities is the Colonial Day Festival held each fall.
- **Eighth Grade English** - A thorough understanding of reading with comprehension and writing effectively paves the way to a successful academic career in the future. Eighth graders will develop skills in a literature program.

### Gateway (Gifted and Talented) Classes

- **Sixth Grade Gateway English** - Is taught in a two-hour block schedule. Students write a research paper with internal citations that corresponds with their social studies or science fair topic. In the spring students write another research paper with internal citations on an important figure from the Renaissance in cooperation with social studies. Organizational strategies are taught to enhance academic performance. Teachers strive to connect the course to social studies, science, math, and art through interdisciplinary lessons and activities.
- **Seventh Grade Gateway English** - Teachers stress an interdisciplinary approach to the study of literature, using knowledge from other disciplines to enhance learning. Students write a research paper with internal citations.
- **Eighth Grade Gateway English** - Literature-based projects teach critical thinking skills. Students write a research paper with internal citations.

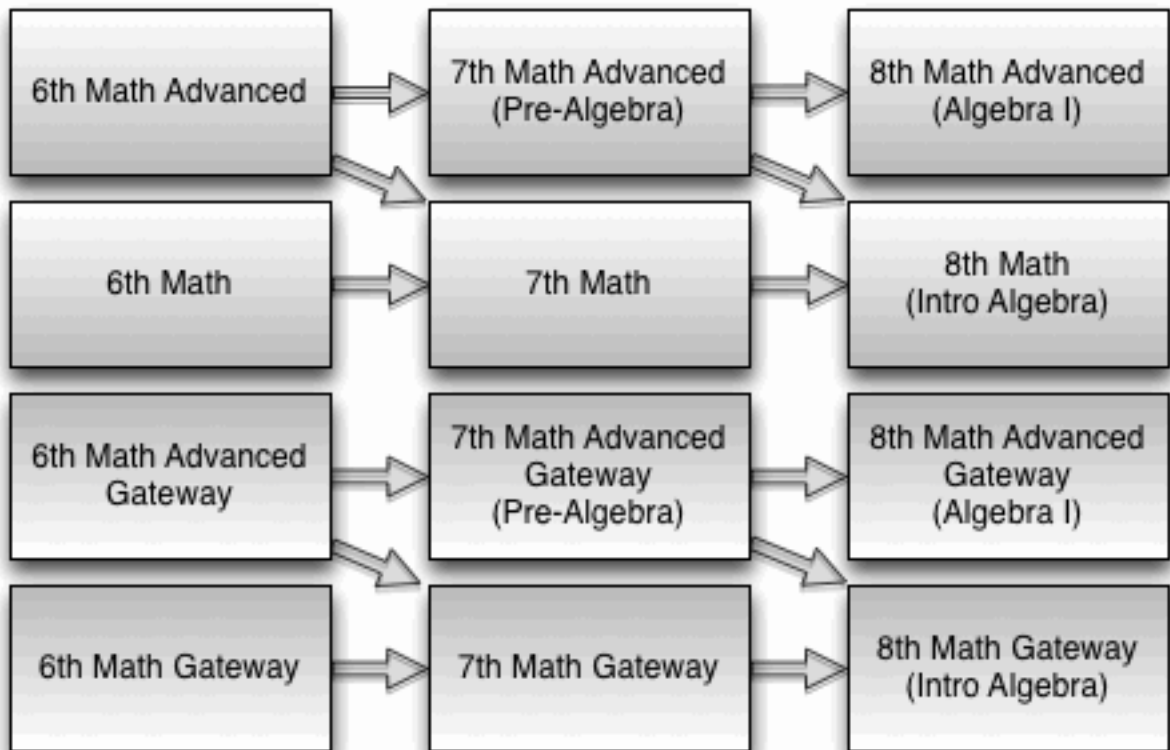
# Mathematics

## Introduction

The math curriculum prepares students to reason mathematically, think abstractly, and to use higher order thinking. Students acquire conceptual understanding and confidence in mathematical skills. The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) states that “Computational skills and number concepts are essential components of the mathematics curriculum, and a knowledge of estimation and mental computation are more important than ever. By the end of the middle grades, students should have a solid foundation in number, algebra, geometry, measurement, and statistics.”

Teachers, students, and parents should be aware that there is movement across levels in mathematics courses along the way. Students must complete their current courses successfully in order to continue in the same sequence. The following diagram shows the courses taught at each grade level. The arrows suggest a number of possible sequences. Although they represent typical sequences, there are exceptions. Student achievement, motivation, and the completion of necessary prerequisites play major roles in determining which sequence a student will follow.

### Diagram of CMM Math Courses



*Note: All middle school sequences enable students to pursue a four-year college preparatory sequence in high school that will provide preparation for further mathematics in college. Students and parents are advised to consult with guidance counselors and to consider carefully specific high school mathematics and science prerequisites in planning for future placement in these subjects in high school.*

## Sixth Grade Enriched Math Classes

- **Sixth Grade Math:** The mathematical topics are numeration and number theory, geometry and measurement; number systems; operations with whole numbers, integers, fractions, decimals and percents; estimation; probability and statistics, patterns and sequences; problem solving; coordinate systems and graphing; data analysis; algebraic concepts, variables, expressions and equations. Problem solving includes real-life applications. **Students who complete this course will enroll in Grade 7 Mathematics.**
- **Sixth Grade Math Advanced:** The mathematical topics are rational numbers and percents, measurement, geometry, integers, fractions and decimals, estimation, probability and statistics, patterns and sequences, algebraic concepts, variable and expressions. Students enrolled in this course must achieve a final grade of 93% A or better to continue in the advanced course study. **Students who successfully complete this course will enroll in Grade 7 Math Advanced (Pre-Algebra).**

## Seventh Grade Enriched Math Classes

- **Seventh Grade Math:** The course expands the coverage and complexity of sixth grade math with an increase in difficulty and depth of the mathematical topics of numeration and number theory; geometry and measurement; number systems; operations with whole numbers, integers, fractions and decimals; percents; estimations; probability and statistics; patterns and sequences; problem solving; coordinate systems and graphing; data analysis; algebraic concepts, variables, and expressions. **Students who complete this course will enroll in eighth grade math.**
- **Seventh Grade Advanced Math Advanced (Pre-Algebra):** This course is for students who have mastered the arithmetic of the rational number system in sixth grade advanced mathematics. This is an advanced math course for students who have shown exceptional ability in problem solving and have demonstrated a high level of abstraction. Students must have demonstrated an ability and willingness to work independently. This course consists of topics in number theory, probability and statistics, geometry, reasoning and logic, graphing, problem solving, and a thorough introduction to algebra. **Only students who have excelled with an overall grade of 93%A on the seventh grade final report card may enroll in Grade 8 Algebra I.**

## Eighth Grade Enriched Math Classes

- **Eighth Grade Math:** This eighth-grade course is designed to supplement and advance skills taught in previous grades and introduce new skills necessary for success in Algebra I. The topics include number theory, basic algebra, measurement, geometry, data analysis, probability, discrete math, patterns, relations, and functions. Students taking this course are bridging the gap between very concrete mathematics and more abstract thinking.
- **Eighth Grade Math Advanced:** This is for students that have successfully completed seventh grade math advanced. This course completes a comprehensive Algebra I program emphasizing algebraic language, concepts, structure, and skills. Major topics include algebraic properties and proofs, linear equations and inequalities, word problems, polynomials, functions, systems of equations and inequalities (using slope-intercept), factoring,

algebraic fractions, real number system, radicals, and quadratic equations. Appropriate geometry and number theory applications are incorporated. Students who successfully complete this course may enroll in geometry enriched or honors or Algebra II enriched or honors level courses in high school.

### Sixth Grade Gateway (Gifted and Talented) Classes

- **Sixth Grade Math Gateway:** The mathematical topics are numeration and number theory; geometry and measurement; number systems; operations with whole numbers, integers, fractions and decimals; percents; estimation; probability and statistics; patterns and sequences; problem solving; coordinate systems and graphing; data analysis; algebraic concepts, variables, and expressions. Problem solving includes real-life applications.
- **Sixth Grade Math Advanced Gateway:** This course is a very challenging mathematics course for students with exceptional ability. There will be homework each night and weekend. This very fast-paced course includes all the skills from the Gifted sixth grade curriculum as well all the content in the Seventh grade curriculum. The topics include number theory; geometry; metric measurement; operations with integers, fractions and decimals; percents; estimation; probability; statistics; reasoning and logic; problem solving; coordinate systems and graphing; data analysis; square roots, and two step variable equations and expressions. Problem solving includes real-life applications. **Students who complete this course with a 93% or higher may enroll in the seventh grade advanced gifted mathematics.**

### Seventh Grade Gateway Math Classes

- **Seventh Grade Math Gateway:** This course is for Gateway students who successfully completed sixth grade mathematics. The topics include number theory, all rational number operations, data and statistics, probability, estimation, ratios, proportions, percents, customary and metric systems, coordinate graphing, equations, inequalities, and geometry. **Students who complete this course successfully will be enrolled in eighth Grade Gifted Math.**
- **Seventh Grade Math Advanced Gateway (Pre-Algebra):** This course is for Gateway students who have successfully completed and mastered sixth grade advanced math with an overall average of 93% or higher. Students will complete all of the eighth grade objectives as well as reviewing the seventh grade objectives. Topics include studies on the following topics and concepts: number theory, probability and statistics, geometry, reasoning and logic, problem solving, and a complete introduction to algebra. **Students who successfully complete this course with an overall average of 93% or higher, will enroll into eighth grade algebra (gifted or regular).**

## Eighth Grade Gateway Math Classes

- **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Math Gateway (Intro Algebra):** This course is for Gateway students who have successfully completed seventh grade math. This eighth-grade course is designed to supplement and advance skills taught in previous grades and introduce new skills necessary for success in Algebra I. Topics include number theory, basic algebra, measurement, geometry, data analysis, probability, discrete math, patterns, relations, and functions.
- **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Advanced Gateway (Algebra I):** This course is for Gateway students who have successfully completed and mastered introduction to algebra seventh grade advanced math with an overall average of 93% or higher. This high school course is designed to afford higher-performing students a head start on earning high school credits, allowing them to advance to higher levels of math as well. Areas that will be covered include expressions and equations, linear functions, polynomials and nonlinear functions, radical and rational functions, and data analysis.

## *Science*

### Introduction

The science curriculum emphasizes basic science principles and skills. Students explore the scientific method and concepts in the laboratory and the field through inquiry, writing, measurement, observation, prediction, and communication. The National Science Teachers Association states that middle grades science education will “Incorporate independent and cooperative group learning experiences during the study of science, and encourage informal learning experiences to support the curriculum.”

- **Sixth Grade Science** - The study of matter and energy with a focus upon motion and forces. Hands-on activities, groups and individualized project assignments, and computer based learning aid students in developing an understanding of science.
- **Sixth Grade Advanced Science** – The course is a more in-depth study of matter and energy with a focus upon motion and forces. Hands-on activities, groups and individualized project assignments, and computer based learning aid students in developing an understanding for science. Students are required to complete a grade-level appropriate project and enter it in the school science or social studies fair. Final grade and performance in this course will determine placement in Life Science 7 Advanced.
- **Seventh Grade Science** - The course is a study of the concepts of the structure, function, and processes of living things. Students learn how cells divide, grow, and convert matter and energy to sustain life. They learn how organisms reproduce and pass hereditary characteristics from one generation to the next.
- **Seventh Grade Advanced Science** - The course is a more in-depth study of the enriched life science curriculum. concepts of the structure, function, and processes of living things. Students learn how cells divide, grow, and convert matter and energy to sustain life. They learn how organisms reproduce and pass hereditary characteristics from one generation to the next. A science fair

project is required. Placement in this class is based upon scoring at the advanced level on the science portion of the sixth grade iLEAP, and earning a cumulative “A” average in sixth grade science. The Life Science 7 Advanced course is available to any student, gifted or enriched, who meets the academic criteria for the course. Final grade and performance in this course will determine placement in Advanced Earth Science 8.

- **Eighth Grade Science** - The course explores the major principles of the earth sciences, including geology, oceanography, meteorology and astronomy. Students review motion, forces, matter and atomic structures as related to earth science. The culminating activity is the construction and launch of a rocket purchased through the school.
- **Eighth Grade Advanced Science** - The course is a more in-depth exploration of the major principles of the earth sciences, including geology, oceanography, meteorology and astronomy. Students review motion, forces, matter and atomic structures as related to earth science. The culminating activity is the construction and launch of a rocket purchased through the school. A science fair project is required. Placement in this class is based upon scoring at the advanced level on the Science portion of the seventh grade iLEAP exam and earning a cumulative “A” average in Seventh grade Science. The Earth Science 8 Advanced course is available to any student, gifted or enriched, who meets the academic criteria for the course.

## *Social Studies*

### Introduction

The social studies curriculum concentrates on history, geography, civics and economics. The National Council on Social Studies (NCSS) defines social studies as “the integrated study of the social sciences and humanities to promote civic competence.” The Social Studies Department provides the content knowledge, higher-order thinking skills, and field experiences that foster effective citizenship and future academic and career success. Students learn the facts of geography, civics, economics, and history and apply their knowledge to the challenges faced by citizens today.

### Enriched Classes

- **Sixth Grade Social Studies** - This course provides an overview of world history. The topics include early humans, ancient civilizations of Mesopotamia, Egypt/Kush, India, Greece, Rome and China. Special emphasis is placed on early European societies during the Medieval Era, Renaissance, Reformation and Age of Exploration. Students will analyze geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of these civilizations.
- **Seventh Grade Social Studies** - The course is a chronological study of American history from the colonial era through the post-Civil War period (Reconstruction) with review of the pre-Columbian era. Teachers provide historical context by reviewing European discovery, settlement and colonization of North America. Emphasis is placed on the American Revolution, the Constitution, civics and governance, westward expansion, reform movements, and the Civil War era.

- **Eighth Grade Social Studies** - The course provides an overview of history of Louisiana from the first Native Americans to the present. Major areas of study include; French and Spanish colonial periods, the Louisiana Purchase and Antebellum era Louisiana, the Civil War and Reconstruction, the Huey Long era, and modern Louisiana. Special attention is given to the various cultures that make Louisiana unique, economics, government, geography and Louisiana's place in American History.

### Gateway (Gifted & Talented) Classes

- **Sixth Grade Gateway Social Studies** - This course provides an in-depth overview of world history. The topics include early humans, ancient civilizations of Mesopotamia, Egypt/Kush, India, Greece, Rome and China. Special emphasis is placed on early European societies during the Medieval Era, Renaissance, Reformation and Age of Exploration. Students will analyze geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of these civilizations. Students are taught organizational models to promote intelligent choice, problem solving, and self-initiated action.
- **Seventh Grade Gateway Social Studies** - The course is a chronological study of American history from the colonial era through the post-Civil War period (Reconstruction) with review of the pre-Columbian era. Teachers provide historical context by reviewing European discovery, settlement and colonization of North America. Emphasis is placed on the American Revolution, the Constitution, civics and governance, westward expansion, reform movements, and the Civil War era. Students in this course will experience in-depth accelerated learning and also complete a research paper on topic of choice.
- **Eighth Grade Gateway Social Studies** - The course examines the geography, civics, economics, and history of Louisiana. Major areas of study include; French and Spanish colonial periods, the Louisiana Purchase and Antebellum era Louisiana, the Civil War and Reconstruction, the Huey Long era, and modern Louisiana. Historical thinking skills are emphasized. The course also includes reviews of world and American history, geography, and civics in preparation for standardized testing. The Gateway course is accelerated and includes research projects that emphasize higher-order thinking skills.



## Additional Courses and Electives

### Sixth-Grade Exploratory Rotations

#### Introduction

This rotation gives sixth grade students the opportunity to take nine-week exploratory courses designed to give a broad range of exposure to the elective offerings at CMM. Sixth graders can take 9 weeks of art, music, speech, theatre arts, home living, and computer keyboarding. The exploratory courses are paired as described below.

#### **Exploratory Art/Music**

This rotation is one semester with nine weeks of art and nine weeks of music. Students develop visual art skills in a variety of mediums and develop and improve basic drawing skills. The elements of art and principles of design are the core of the course, and students learn to use them to create visual art compositions. The music course is designed to cultivate critical listening skills and broaden appreciation of different musical styles. In this music history survey, students will be introduced to various styles of music through a fast-paced study from the Middle Ages through the present.

#### **Exploratory Computer-Keyboarding/Home Living**

This rotation is one semester with nine weeks of computer keyboarding and nine weeks of home living. Computer keyboarding is course designed to introduce students to the basic skills of the touch method of typing. Home Living teaches basic hand sewing skills.

#### **Exploratory Theatre/Speech**

This rotation is one semester with nine weeks of theatre and nine weeks of speech. The theatre course is designed to introduce students to many forms of theatrical expression. Students will build their physical and vocal awareness, collaborate with others to tell stories through the performance of scenes and increase their “behind the scenes” theatrical knowledge. The speech course teaches the student the basics of how to give a formal speech. Most of their speeches are centered on a historical topic covered in sixth grade history.

#### **Health and Physical Education**

The health and physical education curriculum focuses on educating the “whole” child through meeting students’ emotional, social, intellectual, and physical needs. The staff tracks student progress through the “Five for Life” Focused Fitness Curriculum and Fitness Gram tests. Physical education teaches diversity, healthy competition, teamwork, and sportsmanship. The goal of physical education is to promote lifelong activity and wellness. The health curriculum focuses on personal health and drug education. Additionally, sex education is a Caddo Parish-mandated program for seventh and eighth grades that is abstinence-based, requiring students to direct all questions to their caregivers.

## *Foreign Languages*

### Introduction

The foreign language program enables students to communicate in French or Spanish. Students practice listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in their chosen language in seventh and eighth grades. **Students who successfully complete two years of the same foreign language electives will be eligible to receive high school credit for French I or Spanish I.**

### French

#### **Seventh Grade Beginning French**

This course is offered to students who want a full year of language study. Emphasis is given to the four language skills of reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students study the geography and culture of French-speaking countries. Students participate in songs, dances, skits, conversations, and cooking activities. Through frequent oral exercises, and active learning techniques, they establish the proficiency needed to continue French in the eighth grade. The course is a prerequisite for French I in the eighth grade.

#### **Eighth Grade French I**

**(Prerequisite: Seventh Grade Beginning French & must have received a passing grade in Beginning French.)**

This language arts elective is offered to those students who want to continue their language study. It builds and expands on the four language skills of reading, writing, listening, and speaking from the previous year. Students will continue to study the geography and culture of French-speaking countries through a variety of projects and activities.

### Spanish

#### **Seventh Grade Beginning Spanish**

Through frequent speaking and listening activities, they develop the communication skills with which to discuss student life, school and classes, family and home, food and dining out. Students continue to study the geography and culture of Spanish-speaking countries. While the emphasis of the course is on strengthening oral proficiency, students increase the time spent on reading and writing. The course is a prerequisite for Spanish I in the eighth grade.

#### **Eighth Grade Spanish I**

**(Prerequisite: Seventh Grade Beginning Spanish)**

Students review and reinforce structures and vocabulary presented in seventh grade; they continue to improve their language proficiency. They speak about daily routines, health and fitness, clothing and shopping, holidays and celebrations, vacation and travel. Students continue to study the geography and culture of Spanish speaking countries. Students use vocabulary and grammatical structures presented in seventh grade. They begin to use irregular verbs, preterit tense and present progressive. Students

participate and perform in a school cultural event. Students utilize an online textbook with a wide variety of online interactive resources.

## *Performing and Visual Arts*

### Drama

#### Introduction

The drama curriculum emphasizes the use of role-play, improvisation and character development. Students explore and express ideas with different approaches, developing listening, speaking, and critical thinking skills.

#### **Intermediate Drama**

The one-semester course for seventh and eighth grades teaches the basics of acting in a stage production. Each student performs a role in a one-act play at the end of the term.

#### **Advanced Drama**

The one-semester course applies prior acting experience towards the production of a full-length play or musical. Students work collaboratively to perform scripted material using scene and character analysis during the rehearsal process. While preference is given to students who have participated in Drama 1 or 2, all eighth-grade students are eligible to audition for this course.

#### **Drama Literature**

The one-semester language elective for eighth graders is an English elective designed to introduce students to the elements of drama in both literature and film. Students learn to evaluate and critique what they read in books, short stories, and plays or see in films.

### Music

#### Introduction

The music program guides students through developmentally appropriate experiences in music that build skills for success in music and other facets of life. Performances foster an appreciation of music as an art form and as a form of communication.

#### **Orchestra I, II, and III**

Auditions are required for orchestra membership. Orchestra I is open to all string players who have completed 1 to 2 years of public school lessons, Orchestra II for 2 to 3 years of public school lessons, and Orchestra III for 2 to 3 years of public school lessons. Orchestra I is combined with Orchestra II for two concerts and 1 to 2 festivals per year. Orchestra I and II members are expected to practice every day for at least 15 minutes. Orchestra III performs 5 to 6 concerts, several small ensemble community outreach performances, and 2 to 3 festival per year. Orchestra III members are expected to practice every day for at least 45 minutes.

## Choir

### **Sixth Grade Choir**

The sixth Grade Choir is the CMM entrance choir. This program grooms the students for participation in the more advanced choirs CMM offers. These students focus on vocal performance pedagogy, sight-reading/music theory. The sixth Grade Choir participates in select performance experiences throughout the year, in addition to performing on the annual Choir Department Christmas CD and Broadway Review. Participation in assigned rehearsals and performances is mandatory. No prior experience is necessary.

### **Show Choir**

The Show Choir is an elite group of twenty girls from the Honor Choir who prepare a few extra pieces during the year above and beyond their work in the Honor Choir. They are known for their Rockette-style dance routines and tight harmonies. The Show Choir ladies are featured in many performances on campus and in the area. They are featured performers of the Fox 33 Network holiday special Sounds of the Season and have appeared on local news programs. Participation in assigned rehearsals and performances is mandatory. Pre-requisites: A year of service in Choir and singing/dancing audition required.

### **Honor Choir**

The Honor Choir is the advanced group of performing seventh and eighth Grade boys and girls. The Honor Choir has entertained thousands of people across the state and region, having performed annually for the Fox 33 Sounds of the Season, and on campus at the Veterans' Day Assembly, Winter and Spring PTSA Music Department Concerts, and the Choir Department fundraiser performance, Broadway Review. This group performs a wide variety of musical styles, ranging from traditional choral pieces to popular music with a focus on vocal performance pedagogy, sight-reading/music theory. Participation in assigned rehearsals and performances is mandatory. Pre-requisites: Must be a seventh or eighth grade student to apply. Audition required. Sight-reading will be a part of the evaluation.

## Piano

### **Beginning Piano**

Beginning piano is a full year course in which students will learn the fundamentals of music notation, theory, and scales. Emphasis is placed upon reading music and learning correct practice techniques. Students will participate in two recitals outside of the school day. While part of the course is taught as a group, students have the opportunity to learn at a faster rate if they so choose. Beginning piano is a course open to all sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students who have not taken the course before. Students will need to purchase the Alfred Method Book I as well as the Alfred Recital Book I.

### **Intermediate Piano**

Intermediate piano places emphasis on the study of theory and literature. The Alfred piano series is the main source for class materials supplemented by solos selected by the instructor. Students in intermediate piano are active in performance as soloists in piano recitals and festivals. Intermediate piano is a course designed for students who have

successfully completed beginning piano. Students who have taken private lessons prior to attending CMM may audition for placement in intermediate piano.

### **Advanced Piano**

Advanced piano is a full year course that includes an in depth study in advanced theory and practice. This course will include the performance of music from each period in music history. All students must participate in piano recitals and festivals. In addition to working with method books, students will prepare many solos and will have the opportunity to work with specially arranged pieces for piano ensemble. Advanced piano is a course designed for the student seriously interested in furthering their piano skills. Students in advanced piano must have successfully completed Beginning Piano and/or intermediate piano, and must have instructor permission. Students wishing to enroll in advanced piano without having taken any piano courses at CMM must audition with the instructor.

## **Band**

### **Beginning Band**

Beginning band is a course designed to instruct the young musician on the basics of sound production on an instrument as well as the reading of music notation. This course includes a minimum of three performances, a band-produced DVD, and the opportunity for students to perform at various events. Beginning band is open to any sixth, seventh, or eighth grade student who has not taken this course before. No experience is necessary! Students are tested at the beginning of the year in order to choose an instrument that best suits them and ensures a balanced band.

### **Advanced Band**

Advanced band students are expected to perform at a high level on a daily basis. Students enrolled in advanced band participate in a minimum of four major performances, with many opportunities for other smaller performances. Jazz band students are selected from the advanced band via audition. Students also attend at least one festival per year and compose a minimum of one solo with accompaniment. Students in advanced band are expected to practice a minimum of 15 minutes per night. Students in advanced band must have Band Director approval to enroll in this course. Any student new to CMM who has played an instrument before will need to audition for placement in advanced band.

## **Guitar**

### **Beginning Guitar**

Beginning guitar is a one-semester course meeting each day. Students will learn to play an acoustic guitar using classical fingerstyle or using a pick. Emphasis is placed upon learning to read notation as well as a brief introduction to tablature. This course is open to any sixth, seventh, and eighth grade student who has not previously taken beginning guitar at CMM.

## **Intermediate Guitar**

Building on the material covered in beginning guitar, intermediate students will learn to tune a guitar without the means of electronics and will be able to correctly change a string. Students interested in enrolling in intermediate guitar must have either completed beginning guitar at CMM, or they must audition with one of the intermediate guitar instructors. All students who have passed beginning guitar must have instructor approval to enroll in intermediate guitar.

## **Visual Arts**

The visual arts program challenges students to develop their technical, critical and creative thinking skills by solving visual problems using a variety of two- and three-dimensional media. To accomplish this, students develop knowledge of art in formal, experiential, cultural and historical contexts.

### **Beginning Art**

In this course students learn basic art vocabulary and use it to discuss and write about famous works of art and their own work. The elements of art and principles of design are the core of the course, and students learn to use them to create good visual art compositions.

### **Intermediate Art**

Students develop more advanced art skills in a variety of mediums and have more challenging drawing assignments. Students will learn how to create depth in a work of art both through shading and perspective techniques. The elements of art and principles of design are the core of the course and students continue to learn to use them to create good visual art compositions. One semester of sixth grade or beginning art is a prerequisite.

### **Advanced Art**

Students continue developing the vocabulary, art skills and self-expression learned in previous classes. Projects are more challenging and self-directed. Students are free to make more decisions about their own art and the subjects they want to explore. Two previous CMM art courses are prerequisites.

### **Humanities (eighth grade only)**

Humanities is an interdisciplinary approach to teaching and learning English/language arts and social studies integrating technology and the arts, with a focus on critical thinking, reading, and writing. Students routinely engage in meaningful study on a variety of topics including the arts, music, politics, and current events.

## *Other Electives*

### Speech and Debate

#### **Beginning Speech (eighth grade only)**

This course teaches students how to write and present informative and persuasive speeches using at least four resources. Students will also learn how to write an outline speech and a bibliography.

#### **Beginning Debate**

Students present a one-sided argument on a two-sided issue. The class is a presentation of persuasion and speaking that requires research, careful organization, working with a partner, and a strong delivery.

#### **CMM Debate Team (eighth grade only)**

Students travel to debate tournaments, and parental support is expected for local tournaments. **REQUIRES TEACHER APPROVAL.**

### Technology Applications and Media

#### **Introduction to Business Computer Applications (eighth grade only /full year/high school credit received)**

This course emphasizes learning basic computer concepts, hardware and software, word processing, PowerPoint, IC3 and spreadsheet applications.

#### **Computer Literacy (seventh and eighth grade only - one-half high school credit received)**

This course introduces students to appropriate technology with emphasis placed on technology usage, terminology, privacy, copyright, and other filtering areas. Numerous software programs will be used, including AppleWorks, Microsoft Excel(spreadsheets). Microsoft Office (databases), Microsoft PowerPoint, Microsoft Publisher and others.

#### **Keyboarding (seventh and eighth grade only)**

This class is designed to assist students in mastering the touch method of keyboarding/typing. An exciting keyboarding software program is used to enhance interest in keying and to also the necessary tools to provide a better concept of why correct keying is an important part of computer usage.

#### **Home Living I**

A one-semester seventh grade elective. Students learn to sew by hand and to operate the sewing machine. This course also teaches a unit on nutrition.

#### **Home Living II**

A one-semester eighth grade elective that is a continuation of Home Living I. The students will complete six sewing projects that require using the sewing machine and also hand sewing and a unit on nutrition. Home Living I is a prerequisite.

## **Creative Writing**

This is a one-semester course designed to enrich the student's knowledge and implementation of the English language. Students will explore poetry and prose, expository, descriptive, narrative, and persuasive writing through journaling and projects.

## **Journalism**

### **Journalism I (Newspaper)**

This is an English elective course open to seventh and eighth grades. Students are chosen through an application process. The primary focus is the production of the six issues of the school newspaper, the Mane Line. Students complete creative writing projects each nine weeks in addition to drafting, editing, and finalizing articles for the school newspaper. Familiarity with computer skills is preferable. Staffers should be able to work in an unstructured environment independently or in small group settings.

### **Journalism II /Yearbook**

This is an English elective course open to seventh and eighth grades. Selection for this course requires teacher approval. Knowledge of computers is required since students will be creating the yearbook using a website.

### **Broadcast Journalism/Multimedia/KCMM**

This semester-long course is an English elective open to eighth grade. Students are chosen through an application process. Students will work on morning announcements, weekly news shows, and a long-term video project. Photography, videography, voice-overs and on-camera anchoring are some of the skills students will use on these projects. Students must be able to work independently.

### **Newspaper**

Newspaper is a one-year elective course with the primary focus being the production of the school newspaper. Students completing Sixth and Seventh grade may apply for membership on the staff. Once selected for the staff, members complete creative writing projects each nine weeks in addition to drafting, editing, and finalizing articles for the school newspaper.

### **Yearbook**

Students create the yearbook through computer based design.

### **KCMM**

KCMM is a semester long English elective for Eighth grade students who are driven, task oriented, and independent learners. Students will work on weekly news shows centered on topics that are important to middle school students, morning announcements and a long-term video project. Photography, videography, voice-overs, and on-camera anchoring are some of the skills students will use on these projects.

### **Multi-Cultural Studies**

The course develops an understanding of cultures within the United States, as well as other parts of the world. Students learn the meaning of culture and how diversity shapes behavior and beliefs in today's society. Topics such as race, religion, and history are researched and discussed to enhance student's ability to understand why we are different and how much we are alike. To enhance their understanding, students will



research and make written and oral presentations about the customs, beliefs, and people from countries around the world. Upon completion of this course, students will have a basic knowledge, understanding, and appreciation of the customs and beliefs of those of various cultures.

### **Living Law**

A survey of both civil and criminal law, the class will convey a basic understanding of the law and a citizen's rights and responsibilities. The work is divided into units such as consumer law, real estate law, tort law, and family law. Criminal law topics include the police, lawyers, corrections, juvenile law, the death penalty, juries and mock trial. Living Law is a great chance to become acquainted with the law in many of its forms and to learn the rights and freedoms that we as Americans can enjoy because of the laws which protect us.

### **Travel USA**

Students learn about the states and regions of the country.

### **Journey to Careers**

Introduction to the high school course "Education to Careers". Students who pass this course receive high school credit. Students explore the framework of the Louisiana Career Model as well as participate in career exploration activities and explore, understand, and apply personal finance concepts and skills.

### **Guided Study Program (Study Skills)**

The course helps students with organization, study skills, time management and test preparation.

### **Math Intervention (Math Lab)**

This elective course assists students who need extra help to be successful in math. Admission is based on spring test scores and the recommendation by the administration. The small class size allows for instruction to be personalized to student needs.

## Special Education and Student Services

A range of Special Education and related services are available to eligible students. All of the services listed below are extensions of what is offered at the elementary level. Eligible students may continue to receive services throughout their middle and high school years. Additional information is available through the counseling office.

### Gateway (Gifted & Talented Program)

The Caddo Parish School System addresses the needs of students demonstrating high academic ability through its Gateway Program. Identified students experience in-depth enrichment in accelerated subject areas such as math, English, and social studies. Areas of enhanced instruction include creative and critical thinking, research projects, logic and reasoning, and independent studies.

Most gifted students are:

- Superior academic achievers
- Critical and creative thinkers
- Independent workers
- Problem solvers
- Task committed
- Self-motivated
- Peer leaders

Parents, teachers, or other school personnel may request screening for the Gateway program. The school counselor will conduct the initial screening. Students who meet the screening requirements are referred for an individual evaluation administered by Caddo's Pupil Appraisal staff. Students must meet the state requirements on culturally non-biased tests of math, reading, and aptitude to qualify for the Gateway program.

### Talented Arts Program

The Talented Arts Program (TAP) is an advanced arts program designed for students who have been screened by the school and evaluated by state trained evaluators to participate in a program for advanced visual artists, musicians, and drama students. Students in TAP are pulled from physical education classes two times each week to receive specialized instruction.

TAP is a component of the Caddo Gateway Program. Students receive instruction in their art specialty: advanced techniques and processes in visual art; history, theory, and composition in music; and advanced performance techniques, theatre history, and scriptwriting in the drama. Students are given multiple opportunities to showcase their talents through art exhibits, music recitals and concerts, and dramatic productions.

## Special Education for Students with Disabilities

Any student who has accommodations and modifications listed on an Individualized Education Plan will receive those accommodations and modifications in the school setting. Parents may request consideration for an evaluation for their child from the Caddo Parish Special Education department by contacting the counseling office. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973:

Any student who is eligible for accommodations and modifications under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 will receive those accommodations and modifications in the school setting. Parents may request an evaluation for Section 504 eligibility for their child by contacting the counseling office.

## Library Services

The CMM Library offers both print and electronic resources for the use of students, staff, and parents. Also available for student use are laser printers/copiers/scanners (black and white as well as color). A small fee is charged for color copies.

## Counseling and Guidance

A counselor is available for each grade level. With the counselors, students or parents may:

- Discuss concerns about school, friends, and/or family,
- Explore strengths, weaknesses, interests, and aptitudes,
- Reflect on current responsibilities and future goals,
- Develop strategies to become effective personally and socially,
- Plan educational programs,
- Deal with other pertinent issues.

These interactions may take place individually, in small groups, during class visits, and/or in other settings.

## Academic Clubs and Service Organizations

A key component of the middle school concept is the inclusion of extra-curricular activities. CMM offers a wide variety of academic clubs and service organizations for its students. Academic clubs encourage students to broaden their knowledge base in specific subject areas. Service organizations encourage students to consider opportunities in the community where they can make life long changes in others and themselves. CMM expands the schedule to provide school time for club activities. CMM offers nearly one hundred different club choices. A small sampling of the club opportunities at CMM is listed below:

### **MathCounts**

Students enrolled in advanced math may be invited to join this competitive club. MathCounts combines an accelerated coaching program and a series of school-wide and regional competitions to produce math achievement at its highest level. Students must be recommended by their math teacher to join MathCounts.

### **National Junior Honor Society**

The National Junior Honor Society emphasizes service, academic excellence, as well as positive leadership. Seventh- or eighth-grade students who maintain a cumulative 3.7 GPA the first, second, and third nine weeks of the current school year and who meet all the requirements detailed by the national organization will be considered for membership in CMM's NJHS chapter. Students considered must meet all deadlines to be considered.

### **Builders Club**

Builders Club is a Kiwanis International Middle School Program. Builders Club is an international student-led organization providing members with opportunities to perform service, build character and develop leadership. Members are chosen by teacher nominations.

### **Peer Advocates**

Peer Advocates are a group of seventh- and eighth-grade students who serve as peer counselors for the student body. Peer Advocates are selected through a combination of an application process and teacher recommendation. The individuals chosen to serve must exhibit excellence in character and academics.

### **Student Council**

CMM has one of the largest middle school Student Councils in Caddo Parish. With approximately 70 members, the council is active at the district and state levels. The Student Council sponsors spirit activities and service projects. Incoming sixth-graders may run for one of fifteen spots during an election held each fall. Sixth- and seventh-graders may run during the spring elections held in April for the following year.

### **JROTC**

Caddo Magnet High School cadet leaders sponsor the CMM JROTC Club. The club's goal is to build teamwork through a variety of competitive activities that challenge students to work together.

## Standardized Testing

A key component of Louisiana's Accountability System is the statewide testing program. Each year, CMM students in grades six through eight participate in state assessments. The assessment is based on Grade-Level Expectations that reflect the knowledge and skills students should have acquired during the school year. The five achievement levels a student may earn on the LEAP (eighth grade) and iLEAP (sixth and seventh grades) are:

Advanced:	Superior performance beyond the level of mastery.
Mastery:	Demonstration of competency over challenging subject matter and preparation for the next level of schooling.
Basic:	Demonstration of only fundamental knowledge and skills needed for the next level of schooling
Approaching Basic:	Demonstration of only partial knowledge and skills needed for the next level of schooling.
Unsatisfactory:	Lack of demonstration of the fundamental knowledge and skills needed for the next level of schooling.

The iLEAP (sixth and seventh grade) also provides a percentile ranking that indicates the student's ranking relative to other students in his or her age/grade. **Most high schools require a score at the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile or above in reading and mathematics on the seventh grade iLEAP to qualify for admittance into their magnet programs.**

Students in eighth grade participate in the high stakes Louisiana Educational Assessment Program (LEAP) Test, on which they must score Basic or above in either English or math, and Approaching Basic or above in the other subject on the LEAP to advance to the next grade.